

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The ninety-third meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, at 9:00 a.m. on 28 August 2004. In accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted:

a. The following members were present:

COL Bert L. Rice, USA Ret (Chairman)
SGM Kenneth L. McCall Sr., USA Ret (Co-Chairman)
COL Edward H. Uemura, USA Ret
COL(Dr.) Edwin L. Zemo, USAR Ret
LTC Louis F. Schneider, USA Ret
LtCDR Sam L. Bridwell, USN Ret (Western MD)
MAJ Edward Calhoun, Sr., USA Ret
CPT Arthur N. Rogers III, USA Ret
CW2 Ricky Godbolt, USA Ret
CSM Barry Decker, USA Ret (Aberdeen)
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret
SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret
MSGT Charles E. Plummer, USAF Ret
SSG Walter B. Hollman, Sr., USA Ret
MRS. Catherine Eckford
MRS. Cecille Morse

2. The meeting was called to order with a welcome from COL Rice (he explained his shoulder injury to the council). The invocation was given by SFC DePorto followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance led by CSM Decker.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

a. COL Rice introduced COL (USA Ret) Bernard Cullen, the installation AG who extended a greeting from the Installation Commander, announced that Mr. Ashley, the Retirement Services Officer, has been given additional responsibilities that includes heading the ID Card section. He also addressed a question posed by LTCDR Bridwell that pertained to his being locked out of his car after our 5 June 2004 meeting. There was a rainstorm. The MPs were called for assistance. They arrived and stated that policy precluded them from aiding in effecting an entry. Eventually, commercial assistance arrived. The question: "Could the MPs provide more help in a situation of this nature?" COL Cullen did not have an immediate response and said that he would look into it. Note: Because of their involvement

with preparing special sales and promotions for Retiree Appreciation Day, representatives from the commissary and Post Exchange were not present.

- b. Also introduced was LTC Shelby Bell, Commander, Headquarters Command Battalion, who reported on the following:
 - (1) A Mr. Bloom (World War II veteran) who is receiving awards for his service during that war.
 - (2) The command continues to sponsor trips to Washington, DC to visit casualties of the war.
 - (3) That she also would address the MP question raised by LTCDR Bridwell.
 - c. COL Rice reviewed the 5 June 2004 minutes that was accepted with corrections: (1) paragraph 4a - SFC DePorto served in the Pacific. (2) Paragraph 7a - APG RAD is scheduled for 13 November 2004.
4. RSO REMARKS: Mr. Ashley reported on the following:
- a. Corrections to the Retiree Appreciation Day program that erroneously listed CSM Ware as the Installation Sergeant Major and the cost of the lunch buffet was announced.
 - b. That problems associated with the mailing of the newsletter "Still Serving" may have attributed to the slow response from retirees committing themselves to attending the RAD. COL Cullen stated that he is working with Mr. Ashley to resolve this issue. NOTE: Mr. Ashley stated that walk-ins for both the Social and Lunch Buffet would be accepted.
 - c. That all is on schedule for the Two (2) day RAD event. Door prizes have been acquired from installation activities and that donations from the council have been received as well. NOTE: The door prizes will be given away at the Social on 10 Sep 04 and immediately following the guest speakers remarks on 11 Sep 04.
 - d. Personnel needed to man the registration tables, etc. (SGM McCall contacted council members to do same.)
5. OLD BUSINESS: None.
6. NEW BUSINESS:
- a. SFC DePorto shared with the council, the efforts being pursued by SGM (USA Ret) Raymond Moran to have one of the recently constructed enlisted barracks named on behalf of MSG (USA Ret) Max Beilke, who was killed at the Pentagon on 11 Sep 01. (Max served on the Fort Meade Retiree Council, Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council and as Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services.)

The council was in full agreement to support the initiative.

- b. COL Zemo questioned the need for showing an ID Card at the commissary, PX, etc., since it had to be displayed upon entering the installation. Responses included security needs, all those entering the installation are not authorized users, etc. He also had questions pertaining to eyeglass concerns and replacement factor that could not be answered by those in attendance. COL Zemo shared with the council the events that led to his receiving a gift given by an ROTC cadet that he had mentored and had since been commissioned in the Air Force.
 - c. SGM Gilbert suggested that in an effort to enlighten the installations leaders on the workings of our council, that we want to consider inviting them to our meetings. COL Rice indicated that he would follow up on this.
7. APG UPDATE: CSM Decker reported on the following:
- a. COL Shadle's hospitalization and the circumstances surrounding same.
 - b. Their RAD is to be held on 13 November 2004 and many activities have signed on to participate.
 - c. All of the general officers at APG will be reassigned within the next year and the impact on their retiree council is unknown at this time.
 - d. A new brigade is being formed at APG with the mission to do chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training.
8. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: LtCDR Bridwell reported on the following:
- a. That the medical leadership at Carlisle Barracks is exceptional and the service provided is great.
 - b. Their RAD is to be held on 25 Sep 04.
9. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: COL Uemura reported on the following:
- a. The councils June 2004 meeting was cancelled.
 - b. The KACC has a new commander, COL Billie J. Mielcarek, with a background of physical therapy.
 - c. Effective 1 Sep 04, TRICARE will be under Healthnet Federal Services and not Sierra.

Note: SGM Gilbert shared a concern relative to the "bumping" taking place at the pharmacy windows with active duty being given priority. COL Uemura is to look into this. COMMENT: KACC must weigh the ramification of such action and the ill effect it

could have on a person waiting to receive medication, a delay of which could prove extremely harmful.

10. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs. Morse reported that planning is underway for an AFAP symposium to take place soon. Also a Retiree Council sponsored Surviving Spouses Benefits Symposium is being planned for Saturday, 11 June 2005. After a discussion of site location, the Council is considering holding the Symposium at the Fort Meade Golf Course Club House.

11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk reported that during the week of RAD the commissary would present a special tent sale from 9-12 Sep 04. A list of products to be offered was made available to the council. Additionally, self checkout counters will be operational in Sep 04.

12. CO-CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: SGM McCall remarked on the following:

a. Maryland Veterans Commission meeting attended on 27 July 2004:

- (1) George Owings introduced as the new Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs who announced his agenda, one item of interest to military retirees was his and Governor Ehrlich's pledge to look closely at the tax exempt bill this year and to provide the support necessary to see it move forward.
- (2) As a result of the recent D-Day celebrations, Governor Ehrlich announced his support to ensuring that all school children in Maryland schools must be made aware of the contributions that "the greatest generation" made in securing world peace. SGM McCall indicated to the secretary that he and many other veterans familiar with World War II's history stand ready to assist in the teaching effort.

b. Federal Regulations Handouts:

- (1) Department of Veterans Affairs - Final rules:
 - (a) Co-payments for Extended Care Services. An amendment to VA's medical regulations modifies the methodology used in computing co-payments for extended care services provided veterans. This final rule enhances the protection of veterans' spouses by not counting certain assets as available resources for computing these co-payments. Effective date of rule, 2 August 2004.

- (b) Compensation for Certain Cases of Bilateral Deafness. An amendment of the VA's adjudication regulations pertains to rating claims for veterans with bilateral hearing impairment when hearing loss in one ear is service connected and hearing loss in the other ear is not. This enables VA to pay compensation for such claims as if the combined hearing loss in both ears is service connected. The effective date of the initial ruling was 6 December 2002.
 - (c) Social Security Administration - Special benefits for certain World War II veterans. Part 408 of the Social Security Administrations regulations establishes special benefits under Title VIII of the Social Security Act and provides monthly benefits to certain World War II veterans who were previously eligible for supplemental security income (SI) payments under Title XVI and reside outside of the United States. This final rule was effective 9 June 2004.
- c. A newspaper article critical of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs suspension of Category 8 veterans enrolling into its medical care program.
 - d. The need to have newsletter articles submitted to Mr. Ashley at the next council meeting.
 - e. The council meeting schedule for calendar year 2005 was established as follows:
 - Saturday, 5 March 2005
 - Saturday, 4 June 2005
 - Saturday, 27 August 2005
 - Saturday, 3 December 2005

Note: Even though all agreed to the schedule, circumstances may require it to be modified.

13. GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION: COL Rice thanked all for their support and the continued service that we provide to both the active and retired military community.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 am with an announcement that the next meeting of the council is scheduled for 9 am, Saturday, 11 December 2004, at 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade.

BERT L. RICE
COL, USA Ret
Chairman, Fort Meade
Retiree Council

KENNETH L. MCCALL, SR.
SGM, USA Ret
Co-Chairman, Fort Meade
Retiree Council